



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Our Case No. P99-00-E)

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## SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified case as follows.

## In the specification:

At page 1, under the section entitled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED

APPLICATIONS", line 9 after "November 3, 1998," please insert - now U.S. Patent No.

6,023,675 issued February 8, 2000,--.